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CONTENTS

25X1			

- 2. COMMUNIST CHINA RENEWS BID TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH JAPAN (page 4).
- 3. FRENCH-SPANISH RIFT OVER MOROCCO WIDENING (page 5).

THE FORMOSA STRAITS (page 6)

20 Oct 55

Current Intelligence Bulletin Page 2

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002200420001-0 25X1A

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20 Oct 55

Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 4

25X1A Approved For Relpase 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002200420001-0 25X1

25X1A

3. FRENCH-SPANISH RIFT OVER MOROCCO WIDENING

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American officials in Paris report that Foreign Minister Pinay and the Spanish ambassador had a stormy session on 17 October over Madrid's

publication of its 15 October note to Paris protesting the anti-Spanish press and radio campaign in France.

The chief spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry believes that the stiffer line taken by the Spanish ambassador in talks over the past two weeks indicates that Spain intends to continue its anti-French attitude for some time.

Comment

Freewheeling military commanders in both French and Spanish Morocco have been largely responsible for the resurgence of ill feeling, but the retention of the strongly anti-French Garcia-Valino as high commissioner of Spanish Morocco indicates that Madrid is bent on continuing a pro-Arab policy.

French charges that Spain is aiding the Moroccan rebels and Spanish pressure for consultation on reforms will probably continue to worsen relations between the two countries.

20 Oct 55 25X1A Current Intelligence Bulletin

Page 5

Approved For Release 2004/07/08 : CIA-RDP79T00975A002200420001-0 25X1A

BIWEEKLY SUMMARY 6 October-19 October 1955

THE FORMOSA STRAITS

Report of the IAC Current Intelligence Group for the Formosa Straits Problem

1. Military activity in the area was marked by the first Chinese Nationalist success against Chinese Communist jet fighters and by the first Communist shelling of an island in the Matsu group.

A clash between four Nationalist F-86's and at least five Communist jet fighters near Nanchishan on 15 October resulted in the loss of one of the Communist aircraft.

Communist shelling of Kaoteng, northernmost island

in the Matsus, was light, and apparently has been fired either for registration or harassment. A total of 49 rounds was fired at Kaoteng on 7, 11 and 14 October.

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Page 6

25X1

20 Oct 55

25X1		
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- 4. Another Chinese Communist railway construction division has been identified as working on the rail line from Yingtan to Amoy, making a total of at least eight such divisions engaged in the work. According to Peiping's Five-Year Plan, the Chinese Communists were scheduled to complete only 270 miles of the 400-mile Amoy line by the end of 1957. Since the Five-Year Plan goals were formulated, however, the Chinese Communists have continued to assign more railway construction units to the project, and have declared that the line will be completed "ahead of schedule."
- 5. Chinese Communist propaganda on international subjects during the past two weeks increased somewhat in hostility. Peiping repeatedly accused the US of obstructing the Geneva talks, and of seeking to build up Japanese military strategy, in order to promote further "aggression" in the Far East. Comment on Formosa, which remained at a low level, reiterated Peiping's previous formulation -- that the question of 'liberating' Formosa is a purely internal affair. and that only "US aggression" is a subject for international negotiation.

25X1A

Current Intelligence Bulletin

20 Oct 55

Page 7

25X1A